IEN Technical Advisory Committee

April 7, 2010, Meeting Minutes

(approved by committee June 2)

The April 7, 2010 meeting of the IEN Technical Advisory Committee was held in the Lewis & Clark Room, LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternates Present:
Jerry Reininger (Chair), Meridian School District
Ann Joslin, Commission for Libraries
Brady Kraft, Idaho Education Network
Randy Gaines, Idaho State University
Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co. / ITA
Chris Gibson, Jerome School District (VTC)
Ryan Gravette, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
Greg Zickau, Office of the CIO

Others Present:
Clint Berry, Qwest
Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO
Bob Collie, ENA
Robert Gibson, North Idaho College (phone)
Mike Kennedy, Intermax
Garry Lough, IEN
Dan McDaid, One Vision Solutions
Keith Murphy, Qwest
Steve Rayborn, Div. of Prof.-Technical Education
Lenny Simpson, ENA
Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Joel Strickler, Qwest
Mike Vance, ENA
Eldon Wallace, retired
Mark Westcott, College of Western Idaho (VTC)

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Randy Gaines moved and Ann Joslin seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2010, with one correction; the motion passed unanimously.

NEW IEN LEGISLATION

Greg Zickau advised the committee of the changes that would come into effect if the new IEN legislation was to become law. In order to increase the project oversight, the legislature had added intent language to the appropriations bill (http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2010/H0728.pdf) that had been passed, requiring the IEN to provide quarterly reports. Other statutory changes, if made law, will affect IPRAC and possibly the Technical Committee as well (http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2010/H0727.pdf). The IPRAC committee used to be housed in the State Dept. of Education but the new legislation would require it to be housed in the Dept. of Administration. The composition of the Council will remain at 13 members:
- the Chairman will continue to be the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- the Vice Chairman will continue to be the Director of the Dept. of Administration
- The CEO of IDLA remains a member
- 6 legislators (4 from the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee, plus the Chairs of the Senate and House education committees)
- 4 positions appointed by the Supt. of Public Instruction – two public and higher education and two private sector.

The IEN Technical Committee is currently specified as being co-chaired by the CIO of the Dept. of Administration and someone in a related public or higher education technology function. Under the new legislation the Technical Committee is still a required entity but the composition is not stipulated. With IPRAC likely to be reconstituted, it might be an opportunity, or arguably even an obligation, to look at the Technical Committee and review its composition.

SAVING VTC BROADCASTS
Jerry Reininger and Brady Kraft led a discussion about the possibility of saving VTC broadcasts for later use and the potential issues of copyright. It was agreed that it is not within the scope of the IEN to take on responsibility for managing the recording of transmissions, or any kind of repository. Every IEN VTC system installed has the ability to plug directly into a standard VHS or DVD recorder and the IEN can provide guidance on the devices that have this capability. The IEN can also provide guidelines for schools regarding locally-managed solutions for recording classes. Drafted guidelines will be brought before the Technical Committee at a future date, and possibly the IPRAC. Mark Westcott spoke about possible recording solutions for originating classes.

IEN DEPLOYED BANDWIDTH RATES AND CONSUMPTION
Mike Vance reported that for the month of March, outbound IEN internet use amounted to 74Mbs, which is up from February despite the Spring Break. As an example, the maximum for Jerome School District during March was 20Mbs (5 minutes average peak from Monday through Friday, 7am to 7pm). ENA is also working with One Vision to separate the IEN VTC traffic from internet traffic and VTC usage statistics should be available shortly.

GENERAL UPDATE
Brady Kraft shared an updated list of sites that are 100% completed from a connectivity standpoint (29), those sites that are "Telco ready" (just needing ENA to install their router), and those districts in 1c. The IEN is on schedule to achieve the goal of having 80 schools complete by June 30.

Discussion and questions
St Maries schools show "1bz-BIP", Brady explained that an application for BIP funding has been made for this district and the outcome could be known as early as October.
Malad is not yet on the list because the initial cost evaluation exceeded the IEN parameters. VTC is installed and the school is currently connected to the IEN through the public internet, but this is a qualitatively inferior service and once business issues with the local provider are resolved, Malad will be connected to the IEN.

Black Canyon Alternative High School shows a pre-IEN bandwidth of 100. Brady explained that some schools, including Black Canyon, were already purchasing a higher level of bandwidth for their district than what the IEN calculates according to student numbers. In these cases, the IEN takes on the cost for the high school portion of the bandwidth and the school can choose to continue to purchase the balance. Chris Gibson noted that his school was now purchasing additional bandwidth for a fraction of the cost they were paying prior to the IEN. A query was raised about the 2xT1s for Black Canyon. Brady explained that the main campus has a Qwest fiber connection to the aggregation point and a single DSL line to Black Canyon High School, which is geographically isolated from the main campus. Rather than providing a direct connection to the high school, which would complicate the infrastructure, the IEN has chosen instead to preserve the current architecture by picking up the cost of two T1 lines from the school to the main campus aggregation point, thereby increasing the quality of service and upgrading the WAN. Randy Gaines commended Brady and others for the impressive amount of work accomplished in a year with the money and resources available.

BIP /BTOP UPDATE
This is a State of Idaho grant (BTOP round 2) being prepared by the IEN, and therefore it was felt appropriate to review it in this forum. The aim is to use available BIP funds to fund the build-out of dark fiber and capability to schools, libraries and hospitals in those most rural areas of the state that are not going to be receiving fiber

upgrades from the IEN rollout. The IEN office worked closely with the Library Commission and the Hospital Association to identify these locations. Once identified, the local ILECs serving those areas were contacted and told of the State's intent to prepare the grant. The ILECs were invited to specify the equipment needed and the installation cost, the funds would then being requested in the grant with a view to the respective ILECs being hired to install the equipment and retain ownership after completion. The IEN could then make a commitment as to the level of bandwidth that would be purchased from the ILEC across the installed fiber. The same process was undertaken with the public libraries and hospitals, though once the connectivity was established, it would be the responsibility of the library or hospital to make the commitment to purchase the bandwidth.

An initial list of sites was reduced for two reasons:

• *First Step Internet and Telephone Services* had been awarded a round 1 grant and therefore services in the same geographical location cannot be included in the round 2 application.

• In other cases, ILECs advised that they have already planned and budgeted to provide fiber and connectivity and therefore did not need to participate in the grant program. (Jerry Piper noted that in some cases the fiber is already in place.)

The final grant request was for $5,771,680 and the outcome could be known in October.

Ann Joslin informed the committee that the Commission for Libraries had submitted a BTOP application with a proposal to increase computing and connectivity in 55 of the least well connected public library facilities in the state. The proposal also includes additional content that will support workforce development and online resources under the LiLI database and partnerships are being developed with the Dept. of Labor and Adult Basic Education, particularly in the regional offices, to extend their reach of online services and person-to-person contact into rural communities.

A question was raised about where fiber is laid across the state and, specifically, fiber that can support Ethernet. The IEN has not sought to compile this information. For the purposes of the BIP grant, ILECs have been asked to provide their Ethernet capability. There is also a state broadband mapping grant in process (over the next 2 or 3 years) but some companies are electing to not provide the information.

IEN BOISE POP UPDATE

Joel Strickler reported that the building of the infrastructure to support the POP is now complete, and final contractual negotiations for access into the facility are almost finalized.

IEN CLEARING HOUSE

Garry Lough demonstrated a newly-developed area of the IEN website where available courses are listed, over time the data will increase and the capability of this site will improve. The goal is to make the site as scalable, flexible and automated as possible. The IEN will not manage the collaboration between originators and receivers but rather facilitate the exchange. There are three main functions to the site: searching for available classes, searching for venues with VTC capabilities in a particular area, and requesting classes that might not be listed.

The committee went on to discuss the potential security issue around having IP addresses available on a public website. This matter will be taken up with the State Chief Information Security Officer who will report back to this committee at a later date.

The committee adjourned at 3:40. The next scheduled meeting is June 2, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Barbara Morgan Room, 650 West State Street, Boise.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO